

## VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT

### PREVIEW SELECTION VOCABULARY

Preview the following words from the story before you begin reading.

**projection** (prō-jek'shən) *n.*: something that juts out from a surface.

*Tom's paper was trapped between the ledge and the decorative **projection** sticking out from the wall.*

**discarding** (dis-kārd'in) *v.* used as *adj.*: abandon- ing; getting rid of.

*He rejected one plan after another, **discarding** all useless ideas.*

**confirmation** (kān'fər-mā'shən) *n.*: proof.

*As **confirmation** that he could walk on the ledge, he made sure that it was wide enough to fit his shoe.*

**exhalation** (eks'hə-lā'shən) *n.*: something breathed out; breath.

*After holding his breath, Tom felt an **exhalation** of air as he breathed again.*

**imperceptibly** (im'pər-sep'tə-blē) *adv.*: in such a slight way as to be almost unnoticeable.

*Tom moved along the ledge **imperceptibly**, taking tiny, cautious steps.*

**rebounded** (ri-bound'id) *v.*: bounced back.

*After he broke the window, Tom's arm **rebounded**, bouncing backward from the force of the blow.*

**interminable** (in-tər'mi-nə-bəl) *adj.*: endless.

*Although the time seemed **interminable**, Tom had been on the ledge only a few minutes.*

**irrelevantly** (i-rel'ə-vənt-lē) *adv.*: in a way not relating to the point or situation.

*Tom thought **irrelevantly** about the apartment furnishings, as if the cozy rooms could stop him from plunging to his death.*

**incomprehensible** (in-kām'prē-hen'sə-bəl) *adj.*: not understandable.

*The puzzling sheet of paper in his pocket would be **incomprehensible** to anyone who found his body.*

**unimpeded** (un'im-pēd'id) *adj.*: not blocked; unobstructed.

*The yellow paper flew out the window; its progress was **unimpeded**.*

### PREFIXES

Just by adding a few letters up front, you can turn *appear* into *reappear*, *likely* into *unlikely*, and *freezing* into *subfreezing*. *Re-*, *un-*, and *sub-* are **prefixes**, word parts that attach to the front of a word or word root to change its meaning. *Re-* means "again"; *un-* means "not"; *sub-* means "below."

As you read, look for words with these or other prefixes. Use your knowledge of prefixes to help you figure out the meanings of some unfamiliar words.